

# Top table veterans



● The veteran wonders 1 to 4: Schofield, Don Smith, Babs Blanch and George Muranyi.

TOP OF the table ... that's the Acton League veterans team after lifting the Middlesex title for the first time.

The team of Don Smith, George Muranyi, Jimmy Schofield and Babs Blanch showed the youngsters the way when they clinched the title with an exciting 5-4 win over Central London.

And they were in the mood to celebrate when we caught them at the Gunners-

bury Triangle club in Acton this week.

Team member Don Smith said: "We're delighted to have won the title — particularly as we're the first Acton team to do so.

"We knew we had a good team and must stand a chance of winning the title. But we've had some close games and have had to work hard for our success."

● ... y Triangle ... n last night

(Wednesday) in the third round of the national club cup at Triangle Club, Prince Avenue, Acton.

● Acton men had a close 5-4 Middlesex Inter League victory over London Civil Service at the Department of the Environment on Monday and are now in with a chance in the Victor Barna competition.

The match started badly for Acton who were 4-1 down. Martin Les lost in straight games to Gordon

Holmes and Henry Mills went down to Chris Buckley and Holmes.

Reserve Ken Muir was beaten 21-19 in the third by veteran Frank Murphy.

However Les closely beat Murphy and Acton began to rally when Muir had a surprising win over Buckley. Mills and Les followed with wins over Murphy and Buckley and Muir gave his side victory with a win against the unbeaten Holmes.

12/5/78

## Sport 2 ... Rowing

# What a cliff-hanger for Don

GREENFORD table tennis player Don Smith helped clinch Middlesex victory in the National Veterans County Championships at Barnet on Saturday.

He took part in a marathon 4-hour play-off match against Nottinghamshire

### Table tennis

and Middlesex's bid hinged on the outcome between skipper Smith and Alf Saunders.

Saunders had never been beaten in the championships but Smith put paid to that by beating him 19-21, 21-18, 23-21 in a nail-biting game.

Smith said afterwards: "That's the biggest cliff-hanger I've ever played in."

His win meant Middlesex had lifted the title by pipping Nottingham 5-4.

Earlier Smith had lost his first ever championship match against E. Calverley of Kent 18-21, 21-11, 17-21. But that was a minor setback to his county who went on to beat them 6-3 and Hampshire 7-2.



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# Hope clinches title

A LAST-MATCH victory by David Hope clinched the English Veterans' county title for Middlesex on Saturday.

With Middlesex needing an 8-1 win over Hampshire in the challenge round which included Nottinghamshire, Hope triumphed 21-17, 21-14 against Ged Holley.

Earlier Hope had beaten Bob Lush before county veteran champion Don Smith (Acton) overcame Lush and Graham Philpott. Terry Kirby added two more successes and Wembley's Mary Symes won her singles and took the mixed doubles with Kirby.

Middlesex had qualified for the challenge round by winning all five of their Eastern group encounters during the season. This included a defeat over champions Essex,

holders of the title for three successive years.

But Middlesex suffered an early shock on Saturday, losing 6-3 to Notts. However Notts later went down 5-4 to Hampshire, which meant an 8-1 Middlesex win over Hampshire would earn the title on games average.

□ Willesden 17-year-old Adrian Leigh won both his matches for the British Maccabian team when they held the International Table-Tennis Club to a 5-5 draw on Sunday.

Leigh beat former Hungarian international George Muranyi and Peter Partos (Willesden) in straight games. But his MAL club-mate Shemesh Abrahams was

out of form and lost both.

Laurie Landry (Wilkesden), representing the International Club, beat Mike Lissen and former English international Jeff Ingber. And Landry and Melvyn Waldman defeated European Maccabi doubles champions Leigh and Lissen in three games.

□ Don Smith steered Acton to a 6-3 win against Uxbridge in their final match of the inter-league ERA Connell veterans competition, taking his tally to 15 victories in 16 sets.

Smith beat Fred Walker and Peter Leckie. T. Egri also scored two victories and with Smith took the doubles. Eric Blanch added the sixth point.

First  
single

